

FREDERICK STEPHENS.

JANUARY 30, 1857.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. C. C. WASHBURN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Frederick Stephens, report:

That the petitioner represents that he was draughted as a soldier during the late war with Great Britain, at Bainbridge, in the State of New York; that he was one month in the service when he was taken sick, and so continued for several months; that when his company was discharged, his name was not on the rolls, and in consequence he was not paid for his services. He asks that three hundred dollars may be allowed him for his services, and to compensate him for his sickness. The committee know of no principle or precedent which would justify them in reporting in favor of paying any portion of the claim of the petitioner that is not based upon actual service. That actual service consisted in doing duty for one month in the ranks; and as he was not regularly discharged, the committee cannot presume that he was entitled to pay for a longer period. If the petitioner's allegation that he was not paid was sustained by other proof than his own oath, the committee would see no reason for refusing to report in favor of allowing him for his actual service. The petitioner having received a land warrant for one hundred and sixty acres, his case is not regarded as one of great hardship, or requiring the interposition of Congress. The committee therefore recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be not granted.

REPORT
OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PASSED MAY 1, 1877

REPORT

OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE, IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PASSED MAY 1, 1877

That the Commission of the General Land Office, in response to a resolution of the House of Representatives, passed May 1, 1877, has the honor to report that the same has been completed, and is now ready for publication. The Commission was organized on the 1st of January, 1877, and has since that time been engaged in a study of the various questions connected with the management of the public lands. It has held numerous public hearings, and has received many suggestions from the people. It has also conducted extensive investigations into the various abuses which have prevailed in the management of the public lands. The Commission has found that there is a general feeling of dissatisfaction among the people with the present mode of managing the public lands. This feeling is based upon many causes, and it is the duty of the Commission to identify these causes, and to propose such reforms as may be necessary to secure a more efficient and economical management of the public lands. The Commission has found that the present mode of managing the public lands is characterized by a want of uniformity, and by a want of economy. It has also found that there is a general feeling of distrust among the people in the management of the public lands. It is the duty of the Commission to propose such reforms as may be necessary to secure a more efficient and economical management of the public lands, and to restore the confidence of the people in the management of the public lands. The Commission has found that the present mode of managing the public lands is characterized by a want of uniformity, and by a want of economy. It has also found that there is a general feeling of distrust among the people in the management of the public lands. It is the duty of the Commission to propose such reforms as may be necessary to secure a more efficient and economical management of the public lands, and to restore the confidence of the people in the management of the public lands.